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FOOD INFORMATION CALENDAR

OFFICE OF INFORMATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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No. 187

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE COTTON FARMER. . . . A bright side in the current cotton situation is that 92% parity loans are available to the farmer and that statistics are on his side for orderly marketing. On Aug. 1, 1946, there was a carryover of $7\frac{1}{2}$ million bales as compared with 11 million a year earlier and the record carryover of 13 million in 1939. CCC has already disposed of the very large stocks it had accumulated and has none on hand committed for export. A recent USDA estimate of the amount of carryover to expect on Aug. 1, 1947, is less than 4 million bales. The Department's statement to producers on Oct. 30 offering these facts and suggestions (press release 2374) is a note of encouragement for cotton farmers which USDA information workers and others in the field may well emphasize.

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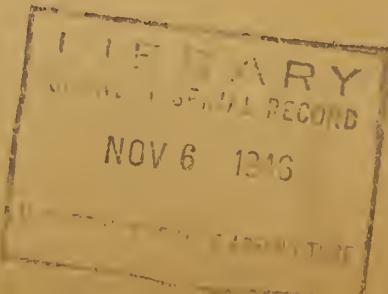
SOME USDA RELEASES. . . . Sixteen more War Food Orders revoked (Nos. 1, 4, 19, 22, 25, 47, 52, 54, 58, 59, 61, 72, 84, 111, 123, and 148)--2349; IEFC recommended distribution of field seeds for 1946-47--2348; Import controls on nine foods relaxed by amendment to WFO 63--2358; Sugar beet guarantee payment increased \$1 per ton for 1947 crop--2361; Joint USDA-Land-Grant College Policy Committee named--2346; IEFC recommended allocation of fats and oils for 1946--2367; USDA meat production report for week ended Oct. 26 is 82% above production for preceding week--2366; New synthetic liquid fuel plant in operation at Peoria USDA plant--2347; Tea distribution order WFO 21 terminated--2378; Final goals announced for rye, sugar crops, dry peas and cover crop seeds--2386; Farmers Home Administration begins operations November 1--2392.

NEW PLUG FOR THE FAT SALVAGE CAMPAIGN. . . . There is "something new under the sun" in the fat salvage campaign. Some wideawake Department folk searching for new ways to bring in badly needed fats and oils appealed to hunters to save every bit of fat possible from the wild game they kill. Hunters in the Rocky Mountain area and in some other sections are already responding wholeheartedly to the plea. Bears well fattened and ready to hibernate and wild fowl packed (with fat) for their flight Southward are particularly good prospects for the fat salvage program. So use this new appeal wherever practicable and pass it on to others.

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SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE. . . . On the Secretary's itinerary for the next two weeks are an address before the Arizona Cooperative Council, Phoenix, Ariz., Nov. 6; the National Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation, St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 13; and the annual meeting of the National Grange at Portland, Ore., Nov. 15.

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PROGRESS OF FAO'S PREPARATORY COMMISSION. . . . Last week the Preparatory Commission of the Food and Agriculture

Organization held open sessions here with talks by representatives of some of the 16 Nations who assembled in USDA to devise and recommend a "blue print" for a world food board. It would be designed to stabilize international food prices, raise nutritional levels, and prevent distress arising from shortages or surpluses of farm, fishery and forest products. Henceforth, or until definite plan is agreed upon to submit back to UNO, future conferences will be by executive committees in closed sessions.

When the chairman, Hon. S. M. Bruce of England in opening the meeting said in regard to world food price stabilization plans: "Contention on this subject may not be so much on the desirability of the objectives as around methods suggested for their accomplishment, "--he described what actually happened last week. This explains the reason why some objections were raised and some modifications outlined by U. S. and British spokesmen and others to the original proposals made at the Copenhagen FAC meeting by Director-General Sir John Boyd Orr, and which were stated broadly in the call for the Washington meeting.

Manifestly, any official stand made by the U. S. Government, for example, must reflect the attitude of our interagency authorities, not simply the ideas of Agriculture or any other single agency, and it should be in line with avowed principles expressed by the State Department. Moreover, the preliminary discussions on the International Trade Organization are just starting in London, with 18 Nations involved in setting up basic agreements regarding matters that relate more or less to machinery for reaching FAO's world food board goal. Hence the procedure between these simultaneous discussions, in Washington and London, must avoid taking inconsistent and opposite directions.

Under Secretary N. E. Dodd, head of the U. S. delegation, proposed that the preparatory commission begin its work by considering how ITO proposals might fit into FAO objectives. He also advised nations to consult together on their own national farm and nutrition programs so as to coordinate them and prevent conflict. He suggested that international agencies might help less advanced countries to develop their own resources.

Mr. Dodd was doubtful if the two-price system and surplus disposal plans advanced for consideration could be made to work without production control. One big reason for his objections to the original proposition was that Government legislative bodies are not apt to authorize large funds for use by an international agency over which the separate governments would have little direct control.

Harold Wilson, chief of the U. K. delegation, and A. H. Boerma, Netherlands, endorsed the objectives proposed and suggested tying in with the ITO studies. Mr. Wilson, speaking for the U. K., was skeptical of the two-price plan being workable, regarded the buffer stock plan as feasible, but said that financial and operating authority for the objective sought should be very carefully considered, possibly at a later date. Brief statements were made by speakers in behalf of other countries, most of which were not definite as to ways and means. Proposals for a positive commodity policy were filed as a document of over 20 pages by the U. K. delegation.

- 3 -

UP-TO-DATE CALENDAR THROUGH DECEMBER. . . . Nov. 2-10, National 4-H Achievement Week Nov. 12-14, National Home Demonstration Council Meeting, Omaha, Nebraska
Nov. 19, UNESCO Conference begins in Paris, France
Nov. 20-22, National Conference for the Prevention and Control of Juvenile Delinquency, Washington, D. C.
Nov. 30-Dec. 1, Annual meeting of National Association of Agricultural County Agents, Chicago, Ill.
Dec. 1-5, 25th Anniversary National 4-H Club Congress, Chicago, Ill.
Dec. 2-7, Annual meeting of National Home Demonstration Agents Association, Stevens Hotel, Chicago, Ill.
Dec. 5 and 6, National Garden Conference, USDA's Jefferson Auditorium, Washington, D. C., (originally scheduled for Nov. 7 and 8).
Dec. 5-7, Joint BHN&HE-Extension Conference on home canning research, Continental Hotel, Kansas City, Mo.
Dec. 16-18, Annual meeting of Land-Grant College Association, Stevens Hotel, Chicago, Ill.

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NOV. 1 CHANGES IN SHORT SUPPLY LIST. . . . No new commodities were added to the list of agricultural commodities in short supply in the November 1 change just announced, and the following were removed from the list: buckwheat flour, fresh oranges, canned vegetables including vegetable products and juices) cured fish, and fresh and frozen N. Atlantic sea herring and alewives. Press release 2396 also contains a list of the agricultural commodities still certified as in short supply.

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MORE STATE FHA DIRECTORS. . . . Six more State FHA Directors have been named since announcement of the first 21 on October 18. They are: J. Virgil Highfill, Ark., Ernest Morgan, Ala., Floyd F. Highbee, Colo., Ralph Phillippe, Ind., L. B. Lodwick, Iowa, and Clell Carpenter, Mo. Some directors will be appointed to serve more than one of the smaller States remaining.

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NATIONAL POTATO GOALS 116,000 acres less than the 1946 acreage were announced Oct. 31. The 2,669,800 goal was raised slightly over that suggested to States early in November as the result of a review made by Federal and State people concerned. The 1947 goals by States are given in press release 2377.

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RADIO SCHEDULE, NOVEMBER 9. . . . CONSUMER TIME, NBC, 12:15-12:30 p.m., EST,
"A Modern Fish Story"--how our fishing
fleets have been reconverted to peacetime and the modern equipment they use.
Highlights will be radio telephones used abroad fishing vessels; sounding
devices for locating fish, and floating fish canneries. Special emphasis
will be placed on frozen fish fillets as the most convenient form of fish
the homemaker can buy.

NATIONAL FARM AND HOME HOUR, NBC, 1:00-
1:30 p.m., EST. "Department of Agriculture Headlines," summary of news
developments for farmers.

AMERICAN FARMER, ABC, 12:30-1:00 p.m., EST.

"The Business Side of Farming," weekly USDA tips for farmers.

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SCHOOL LUNCH RECOMMENDATIONS. . . . Specific recommendations were made at the National School Lunch Conference on Oct. 23 for improving the school lunch food preservation program. State PMA offices, sponsoring agencies, and "other interested groups" were called upon to help:

1. Develop plans on a State and county basis to increase food supplies for school lunch programs by canning, freezing, and storage. Schools should be encouraged to make definite plans for the kinds and amounts of food needed for year-round supplies.
2. Consider ways and means of putting community canneries on a self-supporting basis. Federal funds for community canneries may not be forthcoming after the current fiscal year. By working to make community canneries a permanent part of the school lunch program their continued operation can be assured. . . . Where idle equipment is available consideration should be given to using it to establish or expand school canneries or institutional canneries. Canning centers operated on a county-wide basis can serve several schools.
3. Continue to work for the improved supervision of the food preservation program at both State and local levels so that the production of quality products safe for school lunch use can be assured. The services of the area PMA food preservation specialist are available in all States upon request, to assist with technical or management problems. They are also available to assist with State and area workshops for training plant supervisors....

It was suggested that State PMA offices notify food preservation specialists of the need for their services as soon as possible so that they can arrange their schedules to give the maximum service to all States. One person in the State PMA office should be delegated to work with the food preservation specialist and to represent that office in all work pertaining to food preservation.

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SAFEGUARDING THE WHEAT CROP. . . . Large quantities of damaged wheat have been received at principal markets in recent months, according to reports reaching the Department. During September, 312 cars received at Kansas City and 38 cars, at Omaha, were considered unfit for mixing with wheat intended for human consumption. The Department is cautioning farmers not to mix good wheat with low-grade wheat and suggesting three specific things they can do to protect their crops and the market:

1. Inspect wheat in the granary and that still on the ground. Wheat under loan is not acceptable if it is more than about 1 or 2 percent damaged.
2. Immediately fumigate or "erate" wheat going out of condition.
3. Load and ship only good wheat--keep the low-grade crop and use it for feed. Damaged wheat loaded with good wheat may downgrade the whole load.

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